Chapter 3
Esumi Doesn't Hold Back

Eeh? I— is this really a breakthrough diet method?
Seeking Members

YAJIMA ESUMI!! I CHALLENGE YOU TO A GAME!!

It's called the tickle diet.
Yep!
Is it... reall— Ahyahaha Hahaha!
tiaji
tiaji
running

STOP IT! PLEASE, STOP!
I don't think you've had enough yet.
No, please!
Gaah
Aahyahaha!
wheeze
wheeze

Hm? No, I'm busy.
Written off after 2 pages.
Sob
Sob
Eh?! Did she just brush me off?! But I'm a new character!
Ahya!
Now, where were we?
Jolt
Wait, someone's here!
Aa.uh
Of course I'm not!
C— c— could it be you're here to join the club?!
Ehh? Who might you be?
Beam...
They noticed me
Eh?! Wh— what?!
Tsk
Stark
Waah
YOU JERK!!

?
Oh, she isn't...
Pfft!
rustle
depressed
HEY DON'T GIVE IT TO HER!
Hm?
Here, Captain.
fwip
Hm-hmm!
Finally, it's over
TH-THAT'S RIGHT!!
Yajima Esumi, I hereby challenge you to a game!!
Wow...
She came all the way to challenge Esumi.
Huh? A letter of challenge?
How old-fashioned
I'm Kamiyama Yae. First year from Hagia Olympia Academy.
Right, she doesn't have our school uniform.

YAJIMA ESUMI!! LET'S BATTLE IT OUT!!
SINCE THEN, YOU'VE BEEN MY ONE AND ONLY RIVAL!
It was a close game, but you snatched the win from me...
Local Middle School Tournament
We had a match once before in middle school!
スパコーン
0 2 11
※ She actually got crushed
DISGUSTED

Grr
It would appear... you're too oppressing...
O- OPPRESSING?! WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
Grr
Don't ask me...!
Captain just called you a hopeless existence.
Naah!
E- ESUMI!!
Naah!
Why you!!

Wha- what are you hiding for?!
Huh?

HUH?! WHY?!
Sorry, the tension is a bit too high, it looks like.
...
mumble
mumble

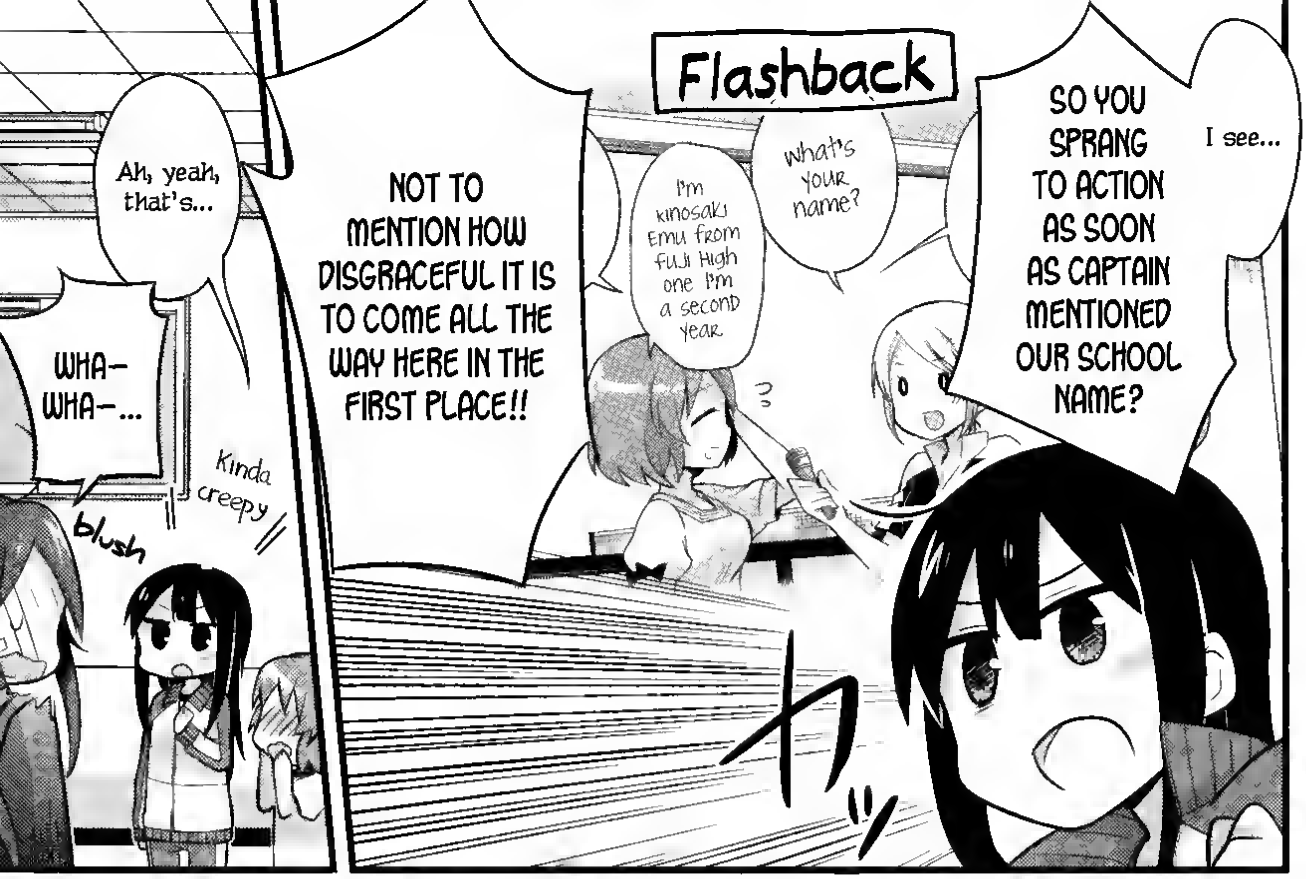
Eh, um, so, Hagia Olympia has a pretty strong table tennis club, right?
flail
We're getting side-tracked!
Esum, you jerk!
That's right! It's leagues and bounds above this place in equipment and members.
...Hm.
Oh?
I had no idea.
?
Wow...
YOU ALREADY KNEW THAT, RIGHT?!
How amazing.
LIKE HELL! THEY SCOUTED YOU. YOU JUST BUCKLED UNDER PRESSURE AND RAN, DIDN'T YOU?!
AND NOW PLAYING TABLE TENNIS IN A PLACE LIKE THIS CONFIRMS EVEN MORE WHAT A COWARD YOU ARE!

AT LEAST SHOW A LITTLE INTEREST IN MY PROVOCATION!!
Let me get to my story!
Hyii!
Shrug
I grew tired of you.
Hello? Are you listening?
Aha ha ha ha ha!
Take that
I have no interest in weaklings.
Eeh?
Um, well, I could play you, if you want?
shoo shoo
STOP!
I dunno. No one's come here anyway.
Eh? I played her?
She's really insulting.
Captain, huh? You lost handily to me the other day.
Sigh...
Hmm?
I'm not weak! I'm the Captain after all!
Ah

Yes, we did! I even had a huge handicap wearing a bear costume...!
AND YOU STILL LOST, YOU SLOWMO!
Ah...

Ah! So you were...
From the theme park!
PLUSHYBEAR-CHAN?!
That's right!
Impressed?

So, that's why you knew...
Now I'm super embar-rassed!!
Waah!
I was excited but now I just want to disappear!
DON'T FEEL BAD!! YOU WERE AN EMBARRASS-MENT TO BEGIN WITH, CAPTAIN!!


Flashback
I see...
SO YOU SPRANG TO ACTION AS SOON AS CAPTAIN MENTIONED OUR SCHOOL NAME?
What's your name?
I'm Kinosaki Emu from Fuji High one I'm a second year.
?
NOT TO MENTION HOW DISGRACEFUL IT IS TO COME ALL THE WAY HERE IN THE FIRST PLACE!!
Ah, yeah, that's...
WHA- WHA-...
Kinda creepy
blush

HUH?!
Other strong members? There's only the two of us.
#2
#1
stagger

IF YOU PREFER I'LL PLAY SOME OTHER STRONG MEMBERS BEFORE YOU!
W-w-w- who cares about that! L-l-l- let's have our match now! Our match!!
ばっ

Yeah, just a placeholder.
Tw- two members?!
So this isn't an official club but a hobby group?

Now I'm sure... This is no place for you...
スッ
ビシィイイ
I CHALLENGE YOU, AND IF I WIN, YOU COME TO HAGIA OLYMPIA'S TABLE TENNIS CLUB!
YAJIMA ESUMI!!
EH?!
Eeh!!

I accept.
GEEH?!
...
Hey, that's crazy, right? There's no way you'd do that.
Right?
Aah, right...
How about playing table tennis in your swim-suit.
Ahuu
S— so, what will you make her wager?
NO, BUT, BUT...
What? Those stakes don't harm me.
Firing up...
beam
Ah, I understand This way she'll give up
WHA—
Swim-suit?!
SWIM—...
HUUH?!
EEH?!
F— FINE! I'LL DO IT!

I'll serve.
Wai—
Wait—
A single game is okay, right?
Yeah.
I guess that's fine.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK OF YOUR WEIRD FETISH, BUT...
I'LL WIN, SO IT WON'T BE A PROBLEM!
Whe—?
I'll show her how much I've improved thanks to Olympia's training!

Eh? Ah, sure.
0-1, Kamiyama-san.
HEY, YOU OVER THERE! KEEP THE SCORE!
Hyaa!
I dare say, you got weak.
Is that so?
IT'S 'CAUSE YOU'RE IN A DUMP LIKE THIS!!

Aah, or perhaps I've gotten that much stronger?
0-2, Kamiyama-san.
0-3, Kamiyama-san.
0-5, Kamiyama-san.
So fast. Hawawa...
0-8, Kamiyama-san.
...If you got this weak, there was no point to my coming here.
Hey, hey, E– Esumi, you haven't gotten a single point yet.
Are you okay?!
sigh...
Yeah, this might be bad...

...
E-
ESUMI?!
turn
Right?
Right?
...You're just not giving it your all, right?
N- no way! But if you lose, Kamiyama-san will take you away!

Guuh...

Trust?
That won't make my game better.
Uwaah...
I trust you, so you can't lose!!

...Well, I know we haven't got much equipment or members, but...
We've been working so hard, the two of us...
sob
sob

But... okay...
Uuuh... Then...
If you win...
ぎゅ

You said you trusted me, but...
Is that really true?
Eh?
If it's bunny costume, swimsuit, cat ears, bear suit,
or even maid clothes with saying "Mistress," I'll do *anything*!!
Cap-tain...
I hate all of those, though!!

'Cause those conditions only help you if I lose.
Y— yes!

Eh...? Ah.
But, you said it was looking bad, so...
As Captain, no matter what happens, you should believe in your members until the end.
Ah, yes...
That's right! Yes.
Sorry.
Do your best, Esumi!
Thanks. I will show you that with your trust, I'll play much better.
Sorry, Esumi... I misunderstood the true meaning of trust.
SWOON
Now, because I trust you very, very much, too, Captain, don't forget what you just said ♡
Just as planned
?

NOW THEN.
LET'S CONTINUE WHERE WE LEFT OFF.
Sorry for the wait.
It's fine. I get it's hard leaving your school behind.
But I won't accept it if you want to back out of the wager!!
I'm not doing that.
Right, okay then.
Okay.
Eh?!
What?
Tremble
Wha-
Fast!!

Sidespin...!
Ghh
RIGHT?!
By the way, "trust" is such a nice word...
HUH?!
Arghl She keeps hitting
My weak spots

ポコン
HERE!
Damn it!

She caught up...!
Huh?!!

It's such a nice word, that...
I'M OVER-FLOWING WITH EXCITEMENT!!
tremble
tremble
tremble
11-8,
...for Esumi!

THE WINNER IS ESUMI!!
Naah!
キラ
The power of trust, right?!
キラ
Such a pain.
Phew Pretending to be weak is tough
Yaay! I'm so happy!!
This is all...
N– no way! A comeback from that far...
slump...
More importantly, have you decided what to wear? I'm looking forward to it.
Grin
Ha ha.
There's no such power.

Eh? Wh– what do you mean?
Don't pretend you forgot. You said it yourself, Captain...
That if I win...
you'd wear anything.
smile
?
?
Ah.
Because, I trust you, Captain.
Aah.
Hah!
No, that was...
You know...
slide
FWha-
Gah!
Eeh?
Scatter

Is that Esumi?
What is it?
KYAAA!
Hmm?
Probably
No, Kamiyama-san had a picture of you in what looked like her diary.
That means...!
NO! YOU'RE WRONG! YOU'RE WRONG!
I HAVE IT SO I DON'T FORGET MY GRUDGE AGAINST YOU!
Grudge...?
THAT'S RIGHT! I JOINED OLYMPIA WITH THAT GRUDGE IN MY HEART!
Awa wa...
Jerk!

Yajima-san is going to Olympia.
Eh?
Middle schoolers
It was a rumor, that Yajima Esumi was invited to Olympia.
I can't follow her. My family is poor, so to enter on a scholarship I'd need to study, get better at table tennis, study, table tennis, study...
Aah.
But Esumi wasn't there...
And I entered it...
Ever since when we played and I lost to her...
not a day went by where I didn't wish for us to be able to play again.
Waah!
WHAT DID ALL MY HARD WORK GET ME?!
THAT'S RIGHT! ISN'T IT VEXING?!
Um, yeah, you just said all of that out loud...
EH?!
hide
?!
YOU'RE HIDING AGAIN!
Hm- hmm...
mumble
This is bad. She's a stalker, Captain...
mumble

But hey, regardless of the reason, you still worked really hard, right?
And you can't say you got nothing out of it, right?
stare
Th– that's...
right...
But
Then, it's fine, right?
Ah.
lower
So if you feel like playing with Esumi or with me...
you're more than welcome here!
SMILE
Outside students can join our clubs!
Captain...
Ehehe!

Eeh?!
EH?!
No Thank You!
Ah, but, I think I'll pass...
'Cause, you know, there's nothing in it for me, transferring to this school.
On top of that,
this place doesn't fit my image...
Haah
How rude.
Aah, yes, sorry about that.
Hmph!
Hmph!
Geez, at least I can probably play better games at my school.
If image is that important to you, it shows what kind of person you really are.
I didn't realize our club's image change at all when Captain suddenly got fat as a pig!
THAT'S NOT WHAT SHE MEANS WITH THE CLUB'S IMAGE!!
Hahaha

smile
But before that...
Nice, huh?
Really?! Waah! I'm so happy!!
Yay!
...B— but, I— I could come to play, from time to time...
Our promise.
You'll keep it, right? ♡
And, Kami-yama-san, I'll lend you captain for a second.

What's with this!
Ghh...
What's that? Table tennis?
SMILE
Now, play table tennis with Captain over here.
I broke a sweat carrying the table!
Flail
AS IF I CAN DO THAT!
Let's do it in the club room!
Uwah!
Swimsuit?
Oh, geez!
Captain...! What are you doing?!
NOOO WAAAAY!

I did not consent to THIS outfit!!
Well then, have a good game you two.
How can we have a good game like this?!
You promised...
shrug...
Oh man, what's that?!
KHH! LET'S JUST GET THIS OVER WITH SO WE CAN GO!
It'll be a 5 game match, okay?!
I'll make it a clean victory!!
DON'T ASK FOR TOO MUCH!!
Idiot!
Waah! The other students will think worse and worse of me!
whisper whisper

The drills you've been put through make your play super obvious. You should fix that as soon as possible.
Ah, by the way, Kamiyama-san...
It's not like I'll ever show my face here again! Idiot!!
Glad I'm from another school.
WHA-?
How vexing Don't look at me shrewdly and give shrewd criticism.
Uhuuh...
Is even my serve obvious?
WHAAAT ?!!
Ugh, no thanks. This was a pain.
And stop stalking me, would you?
Now serve!!
It'll turn out like this again though!
Y- YOU BETTER PREPARE WHEN I COME TO FIGHT YOU AGAIN!
Shut up!

I don't see why you'd want to do that
Right?
of course!
I'm cool with exchanging e-mail addresses, if you want
Waa! ♡
mumble
Waah, it's like an old RPG where even picking "no" gives the same result!
Y— you might regret it before long, you know! we better exchange it anyway!
Annoying
tremble
tremble
K Confidence already shaking

No Dignity for the Captain

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